

Shuswap Naturalists General Meeting Tuesday, March 1, 2016

Ed McDonald welcomed members and guests, Marg Shand and Golita to the meeting at 7:00 pm.

Minutes:

The minutes of the February meeting were accepted as circulated. Moved by Janet Pattinson, 2nd Dianne Wittner

Treasurer's Report:

Ted Hillary reported the Financial Statement for March 1, 2016

Bank Balance Feb 2		\$4583.29
Receipts:		
Dues	250.00	
Coffee	13.50	
Interest	.18	\$263.68
Disbursements:		
Copy card	100.75	
Stamps	35.70	\$136.45
Balance for March 1 2016		\$4710.52
Patronage SASCU		.41

(Nature Park - \$286.06)

(Fall AGM - \$3652.16)

We also received \$20.00 from the Baillie Birdathon (see next month's statement)

Ted Hillary moved acceptance of the report, 2nd Marg Filiatrault

Announcements:

- 1) Outings – TBA April
- 2) Dogs on Nature Trail – Clive will send his collected information to Janet Aitken

Business:

- 1) Downtown Salmon Arm is hosting the 1st EcoFair in Fletcher Park on Saturday June 4, 2016. Ed passed along the information sheet to Isabelle, Gillian and Claire to investigate possibilities for our participation. Gillian will report findings at the next meeting.
- 2) Weed Pull: May 25 has been chosen for removal of woody nightshade from along the Nature Trail. Robin Hopper of the Invasive Species Council will provide gloves, tools and bags, access to the landfill and possibly pizza! Gillian Richardson is preparing an informative article for Salmon Arm newspapers, to be submitted in the first week of May along with photos provided by Clive Bryson to alert the public to this activity and perhaps encourage volunteers.

- 3) Show & Tell: Ed showed a sample of the chimney mortar from Sherry Bowlby's house which goldfinches destroyed, possibly hunting for insects in the moss there. This led to a discussion of moss (16,000 species), lichen (17,000 species) and fungus (30,000 species) which are all called "pioneer plants" because of their colonizing habit on poor quality growing surfaces that allows all other plants to take root. Pioneer plants all have spores, but no stems, roots or flowers. Ed had sample of various lichens.

Reports:

- 1) Good News – Hanne MacKay was absent.
- 2) Environment – Janet had no new information to report
- 3) Young Naturalists – Geoff Styles was absent
- 4) BC Nature – The AGM will be held in Comox May 12. See Comox Valley Naturalists website for details.
- 5) SABNES has received money for new interpretive signs on the marsh wren, gulls, mountains surrounding Salmon Arm Bay, and to mark prohibited access to protected areas.

Sightings:

Sharon Lawless – American mink at the pond behind the Prestige Inn.

Dianne Wittner – numbers of pine siskins are falling victim to salmonella: clean feeders with bleach.

Monica Dahl claims the prize for first spring sighting of a violet-green swallow on Feb 28. Ted Hillary saw one later that day.....too late!

Pam Saul brought a clipping from the Vernon Morningstar about their Christmas Bird Count in which Mike had noted totals of 22 northern harriers, 135 red-tailed hawks, 2 Virginia rails and 1 Anna's hummingbird. Also, Pam and Mike house-sat for Marmonts in Paxton Valley and saw a great gray owl, dipper, northern shrike, pygmy nuthatch and Whiskey Jack.

Motion to adjourn at 7:50 pm by Pam Saul (speaking for Mike!)

Guest speaker: Member and biologist, Dianne Wittner, gave a spirited presentation on coyotes, their history in North America, their physiology, and she debunked many misconceptions among the public about these valuable predators.